

REMARKS

Claims 2-47 and 51-69 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 2-7, 14, 15, 17-26, 37, and 67-69 have been rejected under 35 US 102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US 5,228,103). The remaining pending claims have been allowed or indicated allowable.

Claims 67-69 are the only independent claims that have been rejected. Each of these independent claims recites an integrated optical device comprising a waveguide body, a spectral combiner/divider near a boundary of the waveguide body, a primary input/output channel, and a set of displaced input/output channels defined in the waveguide body. Each of these independent claims expressly recites that “at least a substantial portion of [the] waveguide body comprises an optical amplification medium.” Page 5 of the present application clarifies the role of the optical amplification medium, explaining that “the waveguide body 20, or at least a substantial portion of it, may be doped with an optical amplification medium” and that “the optical amplification medium receives light energy from an external source, e.g., a laser diode that pumps light into a fiber, and acts as a laser in its own right.”

As we note above, independent claims 67-69 have been rejected in view of the Chen et al. patent. The Office Action refers to column 5, lines 34-41 of the cited patent as evidence that the patent teaches the “optical amplification medium.” This portion of the patent specification is presented below:

The device can operate as a WDM amplifier. If another identical laser array (40) is placed at the mirror image side of the grating normal as shown in FIG. 5, then the grating can serve as a wavelength dependent connector. A WDM input beam from one laser channel (10) of one array will be directed to the corresponding optical amplifier channel of the other array (40). This 35 40

However, close examination of this portion of the Chen et al. patent taken in context with the related portions of the specification reveals that the patent merely teaches the use of a laser diode array (40) coupled to the planar waveguide (25) for optical amplification. The Chen et al. patent is completely devoid of any suggestion that the waveguide body should be configured to comprise an optical amplification medium. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s statement that all elements are disclosed in the Chen et al. patent, the above-

noted "optical amplification medium" is not, so the rejection is unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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